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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 11 JAN 50

SUBJECT Disintegration of FCC in Western Departments of
Colombia

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1. At a meeting on 6 December 1949 of the leaders of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) Jorge Enrique Bayona made a report on his recent trip to the western departments of Colombia, during which he visited Cali, Popayan, and Armenia as well as several other towns.
2. Bayona stated that in all zones he found the Communist groups disorganized as a result of the state of siege. He said that the Communists were finding it difficult to hold meetings and that the police were exercising a strict vigilance of all their activities. In Cali the Departmental Committee has ceased to be active and its members have practically lost contact with each other. In general, he stated, the Party militants have obeyed orders of the Central Committee to affiliate themselves with leftist liberal groups.* These groups, however, are now completely disorganized and impotent, and Bayona reports that the militants give the impression of being ready to accept the new order of things.
3. Bayona stated that his attempt to collect funds for the Party was a failure, and that he had received less than Ps.200.00 to turn over to the FCC treasury. He added that the contributions were small because of the poor economic situation of most of the Party members and the resistance on the part of a few to aid the Party in any way.
4. Source reports that Gilberto Vieira White, Secretary General of the PCC, is preparing to make an inspection tour of the departments on the Atlantic coast, at which time he will impart to the departmental leaders the new watchword under the state of siege, namely, passive resistance. He thinks it is impossible to organize effective strikes or work stoppages at the present time. He intends to confer with labor leaders in the ports of Barranquilla and Cartagena with whom he hopes to establish direct personal communication, thus by-passing Party leaders in these departments.

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